

Remarks:

Claim 41-49, 51-64, 66-82, and 84-94 remain for consideration in this application. Claims 41, 48-49, 51, 53, 63-64, 66, 71, 81-82, and 84 have been amended. Claims 50, 65, and 83 have been canceled. Claims 89-94 have been added.

Turning now to the prior art rejections, the Examiner has rejected each of independent claims 41, 53, and 71 as being anticipated by either U.S. Patent No. 6,420,084 to Angelopoulos or U.S. Patent No. 5,484,867 to Lichtenhan et al. The inventive composition of the present application is different from the compositions of the '084 and '867 references in that the inventive composition is directed towards a thermosetting composition. To clarify this distinction, independent claims 41, 53, and 71 have been amended to recite that the composition comprises a cross-linking agent. Support for this amendment can be found on page 6, lines 14-19 of the application as filed. Applicants have further amended these claims by deleting the limitation "exhibits a percent stripping of less than about 5% when subjected to a stripping test" that was added in the previous amendment.

Neither the '084 nor the '867 patent teach or suggest the cross-linking agent limitation. The '084 patent is concerned with a photoresist composition. The '084 compositions do not contain a crosslinker, and they are not thermosetting compositions. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion of modifying the '084 photoresist composition into one that would include a cross-linking agent because such a composition would be insoluble in photoresist solvents. One of ordinary skill in the art would not modify the photoresist compositions in this way as photoresists must be soluble in photoresist solvents, or they could not be patterned. It is respectfully submitted that all rejections predicated upon the '084 patent should be withdrawn.

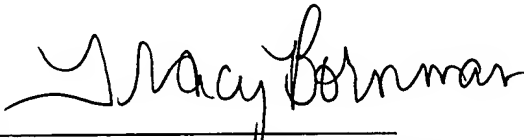
The rejections predicated upon the '867 patent should be withdrawn for essentially the same reasons. That is, the '867 patent does not teach the formation of a composition that has a cross-linking agent. The '867 patent simply teaches methods of forming polymers where a silsesquioxane is a monomer in that polymer. It does not teach or suggest putting these polymers in a composition that includes a cross-linking agent. It is submitted that this rejection has been overcome as well.

A number of the dependent claims were amended (48-49, 51, 64-64, 66, 81-82, and 84) or canceled (50, 65, and 83) as a result of the amendments made to their corresponding independent claims. These amendments or cancellations were purely made for formal reasons (e.g., redundancy, antecedent basis) that arose as a result of the amendments to the independent claims, and it is believed these reasons will be clear to the Examiner upon a reading of these amended claims.

It is noted with appreciation that the Examiner has found claims 43, 49, 51, 55, 59, 64, 66, 69-70, 73-74, 77, 82, 84, and 87-88 to be allowable over the prior art. Claims 51, 55, 66, 73-74, and 84 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 89-94, respectively, absent the percent stripping limitation. It is believed the omission of this limitation should not alter the Examiner's conclusions of patentability as it appears the Examiner has given this limitation very little weight for patentability purposes.

It is believed that no further issues should exist with the present application, and that a Notice of Allowance is in order. However, if further issues remain, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at 800-445-3460 to resolve these issues and expedite prosecution of this application. Any additional fee due in conjunction with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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